

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A circuit-characterization system includes a computer that uses a degradation option to degrade a characteristic of the circuit in order to calculate a degraded characteristic of the circuit.

- 5 The computer uses a model of an operation of the circuit to characterize a constraint of the circuit and select a value for the constraint. The selected value of the constraint depends, at least in part, on the degraded characteristic of the circuit. Another circuit-characterization system includes a computer that characterizes first and second dependent constraints of an electronic circuit. The computer characterizes the first dependent constraint according to a model of an operation of the circuit to select a value for the first dependent constraint at a prescribed initial value of the
- 10 second dependent constraint of the electronic circuit. The computer characterizes the second dependent constraint according to the model of the operation of the circuit to select a value for the second dependent constraint. The selected value of the second dependent constraint depends, at least in part, on the value selected for the first dependent constraint.